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Verification in all its aspects, including the role of the United Nations in the field of verification

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Report of the Secretary-General*

Addendum

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* The information contained herein was received after submission of the main report.

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Iraq

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1. The concept of verification is a necessary element of arms limitation and disarmament. Verification has been defined through United Nations studies as an operation that encompasses data collection, organization and analysis with the aim of arriving at a judgement based on documented information as to how far a specific party is in compliance with its obligations. It is clear that verification must be carried out without prejudice to the issues germane to the internal authority of States or national secrets. The protection of secret information collected is of major importance in the success of verification operations in the case of the international Organization. If the desired purpose of verification is to be achieved, it must be carried out in an independent, neutral international environment and in accordance with unified standards applied to all, so as to create a climate of trust and security and thus contribute to the maintenance of international peace and security.

2. However, the above-mentioned principles were not adhered to when the former United Nations Special Commission (UNSCOM) and the International Atomic Energy Agency carried out their activities in Iraq under section C of Security Council resolution 687 (1991) during the period 1991 to 1998. The verification activities were exploited for the purpose of achieving political goals hostile to Iraq and totally remote from the subject of verification. It has been proved that the United States and the United Kingdom used the inspection teams and United Nations mechanisms for spying on Iraq, inasmuch as operatives of the United States Central Intelligence Agency participated in the teams under the cover and with the knowledge of the United Nations. They set up advanced listening and espionage devices to monitor the movements and communications of Iraqi officials. The United States and the United Kingdom also guided the activities of the Special Commission and used the inspection teams to ensure the submission of lying reports on Iraq's former capabilities, even polluting the remnants of warheads with VX and fabricating crises for the purpose of justifying the ongoing United States and British military aggression against Iraq and to justify the continuation of the comprehensive sanctions imposed on Iraq, which the reports of numerous international bodies have stated to be a crime of genocide perpetrated by the United States and the United Kingdom in the name of the United Nations.

3. The United States and British exploitation of the verification activities carried out by the United Nations in Iraq during the period 1991 to 1998 were a blatant violation of the Charter of the United Nations and the rules governing the conduct of international officials laid down in Article 100 of the Charter and caused extensive damage to the credibility and integrity of the United Nations and to the independence and neutrality of the activities of the United Nations in the field of verification.

4. The United Nations is requested to review these breaches of the legal principles governing the work of the United Nations in the field of verification, to call to account the perpetrators and to compensate Iraq for the damage caused by this exploitation of United Nations mechanisms. It is also requested that rigorous mechanisms be adopted to safeguard the integrity, independence and neutrality of United Nations activities generally and its role in the field of verification in particular and to prevent the exploitation of United Nations verification mechanisms to achieve the selfish political goals of this or that State.